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A NEW BEGINNING

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

GOVERNOR MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 16, 1990

901/426

MR. PRESIDENT. MR. SPEAKER. MY COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT. MY FELLOW
CITIZENS:

THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE BEST YEAR IN MY LIFE -- OR YOURS -- AND THAT MAY BE
THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE CENTURY.

I'M AFRAID I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO GIVE THE SPEAKER ANY ADVICE ABOUT
HOW TO RUN AND WIN AN IMPORTANT STATEWIDE OFFICE. IN FACT, HE SAID THE OTHER
DAY THAT HE HAD ALWAYS HOPED TO GET A GOVERNOR'S ENDORSEMENT FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE -- BUT IN MY CASE, HE WAS WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT KNOWS MORE ABOUT WHAT THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS AND
THINKERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF PUBLIC LIFE THAN I DO. HE
REMINDS ME THIS MORNING THAT IT WAS MENANDER WHO SAID: "HE IS RAISED THE
HIGHER THAT HE MAY FALL THE HEAVIER." AND IT WAS AESCHYLUS IN THE PLAY
"AGAMEMNON" WHO REMINDS US THAT "PATHE MATHOS" -- "SUFFERING IS LEARNING."

BUT THE STORY THAT PERHAPS BEST FITS WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN GOING THROUGH HAS
TO DO WITH THE LOCAL POLITICIAN WHO SPENT ALMOST ALL OF HIS ADULT LIFE IN
ELECTIVE OFFICE IN WHAT HE, AT LEAST, THOUGHT WAS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.
FINALLY, HE DIED, TO THE SORROW OF THE FEW FRIENDS HE LEFT WHO THOUGHT HE HAD
GONE TOO SOON, AND THE JOY OF HIS ENEMIES WHO WONDERED WHY IT HAD TAKEN HIM SO
LONG.

THEY GAVE HIM A GRAND FUNERAL AND ESCORTED HIS MORTAL REMAINS IN A LONG
AND SOLEMN PROCESSION TO THE CEMETERY; AND THERE DISTINGUISHED CLERGYMEN OF
ALL FAITHS DELIVERED LENGTHY EULOGIES.



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BUT THE NEXT DAY, WHEN THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CEMETERY CAME TO THE NEW GRAVE TO TIDY THINGS UP, HE WAS SURPRISED TO FIND, TRACED BY A BONY FINGER IN THE NEW FALLEN SNOW, THE FOLLOWING EPITAPH:

HERE, RICHLY, WITH RIDICULOUS DISPLAY,
THE POLITICIAN'S CORPSE WAS LAID AWAY,
WHILE ALL OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES MOURNED OR SLANGED,
I WEPT, FOR I HAD LONGED TO SEE HIM HANGED.

FORTUNATELY, HANGING IS NO LONGER PERMISSIBLE IN THE COMMONWEALTH. AND I'M STILL FEELING PRETTY HEALTHY.

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU OR THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS HOW TOUGH THIS YEAR HAS BEEN.

AND I WISH TONIGHT, INSTEAD OF DELIVERING A STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS, THAT IN SOME WAY I COULD SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU -- AND YES, LISTEN, TOO -- TO RESTORE THE BOND THAT HAS BEEN BROKEN BETWEEN US -- A BOND THAT OVER A QUARTER-CENTURY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, I TREASURE MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, IN THIS VERY CHAMBER, I BEGAN MY CAREER IN STATE SERVICE AS A YOUNG STATE REPRESENTATIVE FROM BROOKLINE. I WAS BRASH; I WAS EAGER TO SERVE; AND I WANTED TO REFORM THE WORLD. JOHN KENNEDY WAS PRESIDENT. ELVIS WAS KING. CIVIL RIGHTS WERE ON THE MARCH. AND BOB COUSY WAS WOWING US AT THE GARDEN.

I LEARNED A LOT IN THOSE EIGHT YEARS AS A STATE LEGISLATOR.

AND I CAME BACK AS GOVERNOR IN 1974 -- STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG; STILL BRASH -- AND EVEN MORE COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE COMMONWEALTH AT THE TIME WAS A POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL BASKET CASE. THEY WERE CALLING US THE NEW APPALACHIA. THEY WERE WRITING US OFF.

BUT WE FOUGHT BACK. WE WON SOME GREAT VICTORIES -- AND I MADE EVERY MISTAKE IN THE BOOK. AND ON A COLD JANUARY MORNING IN 1979, I HAD TO MAKE THE LONG WALK DOWN THE STEPS OF THE STATE HOUSE -- BEATEN, DISCOURAGED, WASHED UP. I THOUGHT, AS AN ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

YOU GAVE ME A SECOND CHANCE -- A VERY RARE THING IN POLITICS.

AND WE WORKED HARD IN THAT SECOND TERM -- ALL OF US, IN AND OUT OF THIS BUILDING -- TO PUT TOGETHER A RECORD THAT MADE US PROUD TO BE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

THEY CALLED IT A MIRACLE -- AND IT WAS.

WE MADE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OUR WATCHWORD.

WE BELIEVED IN IT, AND WE WORKED HARD TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

AND, SWEEPED UP BY THE EXCITEMENT AND EUPHORIA OF IT ALL, I -- AND MANY OF YOU -- MARCHED OFF TO DO BATTLE ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE -- IN THE TOUGHEST CONTEST OF THEM ALL.

MIRACULOUSLY. THAT CANDIDACY BEGAN TO GROW AND SUCCEED.

AND LO AND BEHOLD. A VERY LONG SHOT CANDIDATE FOUND HIMSELF ON THE ROAD TO THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION IN ATLANTA.

BUT A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

I RAN A GREAT CAMPAIGN FOR THE NOMINATION -- AND A LOUSY ONE FOR THE FINAL.

I LOST. AND IN THE PROCESS MASSACHUSETTS TOOK AN UNFAIR BEATING.

AND I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT IT.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU ARE ANGRY WITH ME. FEEL BETRAYED. FEEL THAT I PUT MYSELF BEFORE YOU AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW THAT I UNDERESTIMATED THE AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY IT TAKES TO SEEK THE MODERN PRESIDENCY. TRYING TO DO TWO JOBS AT THE SAME TIME WAS MORE DIFFICULT AND MORE GRUELLING THAN I EXPECTED.

AND I UNDERESTIMATED THE TOLL IT WOULD TAKE ON MY FAMILY, TOO. DURING THE WEEKS AFTER THE ELECTION, I WAS, AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT KITTY. LISA'S PREGNANCY HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT. AND WE WERE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT THE BABY. SO IT WASN'T THE EASIEST TIME IN OUR LIVES.

AND THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT COMING OFF A LONG AND GRINDING AND DISAPPOINTING PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, I WADED IN WHEN I SHOULD HAVE STEPPED BACK.

IT'S ALSO CLEAR TO ME NOW THAT IT WASN'T THE TIME TO EXPAND STATE GOVERNMENT. BUT RATHER A TIME TO PAUSE; TO CONSOLIDATE; TO MAKE SURE THAT WE WERE GETTING VALUE FOR EVERY DOLLAR WE WERE SPENDING BEFORE WE SPENT MORE.

THROW IN DRAMATIC DECLINES IN STATE REVENUE THIS YEAR THAT NOBODY FORECAST. AND YOU HAVE A PRESCRIPTION FOR TROUBLE -- AND WE'VE HAD PLENTY OF IT.

HARRY TRUMAN SAID. "THE BUCK STOPS HERE." AND HE WAS RIGHT. IF A POLITICIAN TAKES CREDIT FOR THE SUNSHINE, HE'D BETTER BE PREPARED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RAIN.

BUT THERE COMES A TIME -- AND I BELIEVE IT HAS ARRIVED -- WHEN NOBODY'S INTEREST -- AND CERTAINLY NOT THE PUBLIC'S -- IS SERVED BY LAYING ON MORE BLAME.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE WANT LEADERSHIP AND HOPE AND A SENSE THAT THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS ARE READY TO TAKE ON THE FUTURE -- NOT AS ACCOUNTANTS BUT AS PEOPLE OF VISION WHO UNDERSTAND JUST HOW EXTRAORDINARY THE NEW WORLD OF THE '90S IS GOING TO BE.

AND WHILE THEY MAY BE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE STATE OF THE STATE TODAY -- AND WHO CAN BLAME THEM -- THEY ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST DECADE TO MAKE THIS A BETTER PLACE -- FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN AND OUR GRANDCHILDREN.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT WE'VE CREATED NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR 500,000 MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT WE'VE PROVIDED OUR CITIES AND TOWNS WITH UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNTS OF STATE ASSISTANCE AND NOW HAVE THE LOWEST PROPERTY TAXES IN THE NORTHEAST -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT I RIDE A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT NINE YEARS AGO LITERALLY SHUT DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND TODAY IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT YOU CAN GO DOWN TO THE REGISTRY THESE DAYS AND GET YOUR LICENSE IN TEN MINUTES -- NOT THREE HOURS -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD THAT MASSACHUSETTS RANKS AT THE TOP IN ITS COMMITMENT TO A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. PROUD THAT TODAY WE HAVE THE SIXTH LARGEST STATE PARK SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY AND THAT WE ARE PRESERVING SOME OF OUR PRECIOUS FARMS AND OPEN SPACES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY JUST LAST WEEK CALLED THIS COMMONWEALTH THE BEST PLACE IN THE NATION FOR CHILDREN -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT THIS STATE CARES ABOUT ITS SENIOR CITIZENS AND ITS VETERANS AND HAS DONE SO MUCH TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO LIVE THEIR GOLDEN YEARS TO THE FULLEST -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

I'M PROUD OF THOSE SEVENTY THOUSAND SINGLE PARENTS ON WELFARE WHO WE'VE HELPED TO FIND JOBS AND INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

AND I'M PROUD THAT THIS COMMONWEALTH OF OURS IS NOW WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING THE FIRST STATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC TO GUARANTEE ITS CITIZENS BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE -- AND I HOPE YOU ARE, TOO.

AFTER WHAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH THIS PAST YEAR, IT MAY SOUND CRAZY FOR ME TO SAY THIS.

BUT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M VERY BULLISH ON MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW ENGLAND.

I THINK WE HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF US -- IF WE STOP SINGING THE BLUES AND GO TO WORK -- TOGETHER -- TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN IN THE 1990s.

BECAUSE WE STILL HAVE ALL OF THE STRENGTHS THAT HELPED US TO ACHIEVE THE MIRACLE OF THE '80s -- AND THEY ARE JUST WAITING TO BE TAPPED.

THE MOST PRODUCTIVE WORKERS IN THE WORLD.

SOME OF THE MOST CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURS.

GREAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

GREAT MEDICAL CENTERS.

AND A QUALITY OF LIFE SECOND TO NONE.

AND THAT IS WHY -- EVEN AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE NEW ENGLAND ECONOMY IS

NOT THE RED-HOT ITEM IT WAS A YEAR OR TWO AGO -- THE SEEDS OF OUR FUTURE GROWTH ARE ALREADY BEING PLANTED.

AND WE MUST NURTURE THEM.

IN BIOTECH. IN SEMI-CONDUCTORS AND SOFTWARE. IN FIBER OPTICS. AND ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS AND POLYMERS. AND MATERIALS. AND NEW MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES.

AND, YES, IN MINI-COMPUTERS, TOO.

THAT INDUSTRY IS REFORMING AND RESTRUCTURING ITSELF AFTER A PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH, JUST AS STATE GOVERNMENT MUST DO.

BUT WHEN THE RESTRUCTURING IS OVER, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL STILL BE EARNING GOOD INCOMES AT DEC AND DATA GENERAL AND BULL INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND WANG AND SO MANY OF THE COMPANIES THAT MADE THIS STATE THE HOT STATE OF THE 1980s.

AND THEY WILL BE JOINED BY EXCITING NEW COMPANIES AND NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE "NEW TECH" INDUSTRIES THAT ARE BEING CREATED EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

STATE GOVERNMENT MUST BE A HELPING AND CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNER, JUST AS WE WERE IN THE 1980s. AND TO DO THAT, WE'VE GOT TO GET ABOUT THE JOB THIS YEAR OF CLOSING THE BUDGET GAP; OF GETTING THE BUDGET BUSTERS UNDER CONTROL; AND OF RESTORING LONG TERM FISCAL STABILITY TO THE COMMONWEALTH AND TO ITS CITIES AND TOWNS.

FOR STATE GOVERNMENT THIS IS CLEARLY A TIME OF CHANGE. 1989 HAS TAUGHT US THAT. IN THE SHORT RUN WE NEED NEW REVENUES. BUT OUR ABILITY TO PRESERVE THE GAINS WE'VE MADE IN THE '80S WILL REQUIRE A COMMITMENT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING OF OUR MOST EXPENSIVE OBLIGATIONS.

IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE US TO HAVE A VISION OF WHAT WE WANT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AND ITS PEOPLE AS WE GET READY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

ON FRIDAY, I'VE ASKED SEVERAL HUNDRED LEADERS AND CITIZENS IN OUR ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TO JOIN ME AT MIT FOR AN ALL-DAY CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW ENGLAND.

I'M GOING TO ASK THEM TO HELP US SHAPE AN ECONOMIC AGENDA THAT WILL WIN THE '90S FOR MASSACHUSETTS.

AN ECONOMIC AGENDA THAT MAKES THIS STATE SCIENCE-FRIENDLY; THAT CREATES A NETWORK OF SCIENCE PARKS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH THAT ARE READY FOR THE GROWTH THAT IS COMING IN THE NEW TECH INDUSTRIES; THAT BUILDS THE KIND OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WE NEED TO SUPPORT THAT GROWTH: IN THE HARBOR CLEANUP; THE ARTERY/TUNNEL; THE OLD COLONY RESTORATION; HIGH-SPEED RAIL TO NEW YORK; AND THE TURNPIKE REBUILD.

AN AGENDA THAT RENEWS OUR COMMITMENT TO GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY PART OF THE COMMONWEALTH -- IN NORTHERN BERKSHIRE AND THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY; IN SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS AND ALONG THE SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR.

AN AGENDA THAT UNDERSTANDS THAT 85% OF THE NEW JOBS WE'LL BE CREATING IN MASSACHUSETTS OVER THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST A COMMUNITY

COLLEGE EDUCATION AND THAT WE MUST INVEST IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND IN LIFE-LONG EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

AN AGENDA THAT UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR MARKETPLACE IS NO LONGER JUST NEW ENGLAND, OR EVEN JUST AMERICA.

OUR MARKETPLACE IS THE WORLD.

AND A REGION OF THE COUNTRY WHICH USED TO BE AT A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE WHEN IT CAME TO COMPETING FOR NATIONAL MARKETS IS NOW THE NATION'S STEPPING STONE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

IT IS MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW ENGLAND THAT HAVE THE TIES TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY -- CULTURALLY, ETHNICALLY, GEOGRAPHICALLY, EDUCATIONALLY.

IT IS MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW ENGLAND THAT HAVE THE BRAINS AND THE KNOW-HOW TO MAKE 1992 NOT ONLY THE YEAR IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE COLUMBUS' DISCOVERY OF AMERICA BUT THE YEAR IN WHICH WE REDISCOVER EUROPE -- THE PLACE FROM WHICH SO MANY OF US AND OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS CAME.

AND THAT IS WHY OUR EXPORT '90S CAMPAIGN TO DOUBLE MASSACHUSETTS EXPORTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IS SO EXCITING -- AND SO PROMISING -- AND SO MUCH A PART OF WHAT WE MUST BE DOING TOGETHER.

WE'VE GOT TO "GO INTERNATIONAL" WITH A VENGEANCE. NOT JUST IN A BUSINESS SENSE, BUT IN OUR SCHOOLS AS WELL.

OUR KIDS HAVE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE STUDY OF GEOGRAPHY.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES ONCE AGAIN MUST BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION -- AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PRIDE WE SHOULD BE INSTILLING IN THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GROW UP BILINGUAL.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ISN'T JUST A SLOGAN.

IT MUST BECOME A PERMANENT PART OF WHAT WE TEACH -- AND HOW WE TEACH IT.

THERE IS MORE -- MUCH MORE -- THAT WE'LL BE DOING TOGETHER THIS YEAR AND IN THE YEARS TO COME.

BUILDING THE GOVERNOR'S ALLIANCE AGAINST DRUGS AND ALCOHOL -- ALREADY THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY -- SO THAT OUR CHILDREN CAN GROW UP STRONG AND HEALTHY AND WITH A SENSE OF HOPE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SUDDEN SURPLUS OF HOUSING TO OPEN UP THE DOOR OF HOUSING OPPORTUNITY TO THOUSANDS OF YOUNG FAMILIES WHO WERE PRACTICALLY SHUT OUT OF THE MARKET BY THE WILD UPWARD SURGE IN HOME PRICES THAT WE'VE BEEN EXPERIENCING.

HELPING TO HEAL THE WOUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN REOPENED BY THE VIOLENCE AND DECEPTION OF ONE MAN -- WOUNDS THAT HAVE CAUSED US TO LOOK DEEPLY ONCE AGAIN INTO OUR FEELINGS ABOUT EACH OTHER AND ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY.

FINALLY, MY FRIENDS, THERE'S ONE OTHER THING THAT I HOPE WE'LL BE DOING TOGETHER THIS YEAR. IT HAS TO DO WITH PUBLIC SERVANTS -- THOSE IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT -- WHO WORK EVERYDAY TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO FIND HOMES FOR THOSE WITHOUT A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN. WHO NURSE THE BABIES THAT ARE BEING BORN ADDICTED TO COCAINE OR INFECTED WITH AIDS. WHO RISK THEIR LIVES RESCUING BATTERED AND ABUSED CHILDREN.

PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO PATROL THE OVERCROWDED AND DANGEROUS CORRIDORS OF OUR PRISONS. WHO CLEAN HAZARDOUS WASTES FROM OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS. WHO TEACH TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. WHO RISK LIFE AND LIMB TO KEEP OUR STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE AND SECURE. EVERY DAY, THEY CONFRONT THE PEOPLE AND THE ISSUES SOME WOULD RATHER FORGET.

I'M SURE IT WILL SOUND STRANGE TO MANY OF YOU OUT THERE WHO HAVE BEEN LISTENING ALL YEAR TO THE SOUND AND FURY ABOUT STATE EMPLOYEES AND THEIR ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES.

BUT ANYONE WHO KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS STATE GOVERNMENT WILL TELL YOU THAT MASSACHUSETTS HAS BEEN SERVED OVER THE PAST DECADE BY SOME OF THE BEST AND MOST DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS WE'VE EVER HAD -- AND THEY DESERVE OUR APPRECIATION, THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR.

YOU KNOW, OVER THE PAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS, THE COMMONWEALTH HAS HAD ITS UPS AND DOWNS. AND FOR MOST OF THE PAST DECADE, WE'VE BEEN WAY UP.

WHICH MAY BE ONE REASON WHY WE FEEL SO DOWN RIGHT NOW.

BUT THE TEST OF OUR STRENGTH IS NOT HOW WELL WE DO WHEN TIMES ARE GOOD.

THAT'S EASY.

IT'S WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH THAT PEOPLE HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.

DURING MY LAST TWELVE MONTHS AS GOVERNOR I INTEND TO WORK AS HARD AS I KNOW HOW -- AND TO DO THE VERY BEST I CAN EACH AND EVERY DAY.

I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

I WANT TO RESTORE THAT BOND.

I WANT TO HELP US REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE THAT MADE US WHAT WE WERE IN THE '80s.

LAST SUNDAY, I DROPPED OVER TO VISIT JOHN AND LISA AND ALLIE AT THEIR APARTMENT. AND I DON'T HAVE TO TELL ANY GRANDPARENT HERE IN THE STATE HOUSE TONIGHT OR IN YOUR LIVING ROOMS AT HOME WHAT AN INCREDIBLE JOY IT IS TO HAVE ONE'S GRANDDAUGHTER REACH OUT TO YOU WITH A SMILE THAT COULD LIGHT UP THE WORLD.

ALEXANDRA JANE DUKAKIS WILL BE CELEBRATING HER FIRST BIRTHDAY ON THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY.

AND WHAT'S SO EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT THIS TIME AND PLACE IN WHICH WE LIVE IS THAT SHE MAY BE ABLE TO GROW UP IN A WORLD WHERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A WORLD THAT CAN RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES WITHOUT WAR AND WITHOUT BLOODSHED; CAN BEAT OUR SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES; CAN USE THAT "PEACE DIVIDEND" NOT FOR WEAPONS OF WAR OR S AND L BAILOUTS OR TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY -- BUT TO BUILD A LIFE OF PEACE AND

UNDERSTANDING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLIE AND FOR MILLIONS OF CHILDREN LIKE HER ALL OVER THE WORLD.

A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE CAN SAY WHAT THEY THINK; AND WRITE WHAT THEY WANT TO WRITE; AND BE WHAT THEY WANT TO BE -- AND NOT HAVE TO ANSWER TO THE ORDERS OF THE CENSOR OR THE KNOCK ON THE DOOR OF THE SECRET POLICE.

THOSE VALUES AND THOSE FREEDOMS WERE BORN AND TOOK ROOT HERE IN THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY. THEY WERE FIRST SPELLED OUT IN SOMETHING CALLED "THE MASSACHUSETTS BODY OF LIBERTIES" IN 1641.

"EVERY PERSON WITHIN THIS JURISDICTION." IT SAID. "WHETHER INHABITANT OR FORREINER, SHALL ENJOY THE SAME JUSTICE AND LAW THAT IS GENERALL FOR THE PLANTATION, WHICH WE CONSTITUTE AND EXECUTE ONE TOWARDS ANOTHER WITHOUT PARTIALITIE OR DELAY."

MY FRIENDS, IT IS TIME FOR A NEW BEGINNING.

A NEW BEGINNING IN A STATE THAT HAS DEFINED LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORLD FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

WE HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF.

AND WE HAVE A LOT TO DO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

